

W. D. CATLETT.

JUNE 7, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRUMM, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7151.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7151) for the relief of W. D. Catlett, having had the same under consideration, respectfully report as follows:

After considering all the evidence available touching the merits of this claim, the committee have arrived at the following conclusions, to wit:

W. D. Catlett was placed in charge of the ladies' reception room, also acting as messenger for said reception room. He assumed this responsibility and charge at the suggestion of W. J. Glenn, Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.

Your committee are clearly of the opinion that W. D. Catlett was given to understand that there would be no doubt as to his pay for services rendered in this position, and that he (Glenn) would personally go to the Committee on Accounts and urge that committee to ratify his action in placing Catlett in charge of the ladies' reception room.

Your committee are entirely satisfied that a great majority of the Members of the House of the Fifty-fourth Congress approved the Doorkeeper's action in placing Catlett in this position. On the representations made to Catlett by the Doorkeeper of the House, and the assurance given him by members of this Congress, he was induced to remain in charge of this reception room for a period of four months, for which he has received no compensation.

Your committee believe that the necessity for a competent and well-qualified person to be placed in charge of the ladies' reception room will be plainly apparent. That Mr. Catlett did remain in charge of this room as above stated; that he faithfully and efficiently discharged the duties in a gentlemanly manner, to the entire satisfaction of all parties, there can be no question, and your committee think that the sum of \$100 per month is only reasonable compensation. We therefore report the bill back with the recommendation that it do pass.

Appended hereto and made a part of this report is the letter of W. D. Catlett, the person named in the bill, together with a copy of the resolution offered in the House, which was referred to the Committee on Accounts and disapproved by them.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 18, 1897.*

DEAR SIR: I was placed in charge of ladies' reception room in Statuary Hall December 12, 1896, by W. J. Glenn, charged to Hon. C. F. Joy, and served with pay until January 15, 1896, and was then discharged. I was then requested to remain by various Members of the House. I did so, the Doorkeeper promising to aid me in securing the place. He promised he would go before the Committee on Accounts and endeavor to get them to act in my favor. I held said position from January 15, 1896, to May 15, 1896, without compensation, and then, finding the Committee on Accounts would not act in my favor, I gave the place up.

Respectfully inclosed please find resolution.

W. D. CATLETT.

Hon. C. N. BRUMM,
Chairman of Committee on Claims.

RESOLUTION.

Whereas it is very desirable that a competent and experienced person be appointed in charge of the ladies' reception room, for the purpose of preventing undue annoyance to members; and

Whereas Mr. W. D. Catlett, being eminently suitable for the place, has been requested by a number of members to act in that position, assuring him that because of his efficiency he would be permanently employed, whereupon he has served without pay since January 15, 1896: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Doorkeeper of the House be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint the said W. D. Catlett to said position at a compensation of \$1,200 per annum, and that he be allowed from January 15, 1896, the usual salary, to be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

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